

**Abstract**

A method for treating a wellbore (or well casing) and the contiguous wellbore area to remove scale (mineral deposits comprised of, e.g., BaSO<sub>4</sub>, CaCO<sub>3</sub>, etc.) in the context  
5 of hydrocarbon recovery and other applications is disclosed, said method including contacting the scale with a fluid comprised of an ionic liquid or liquids.